



RURAL DISTRICT OF MERIDEN

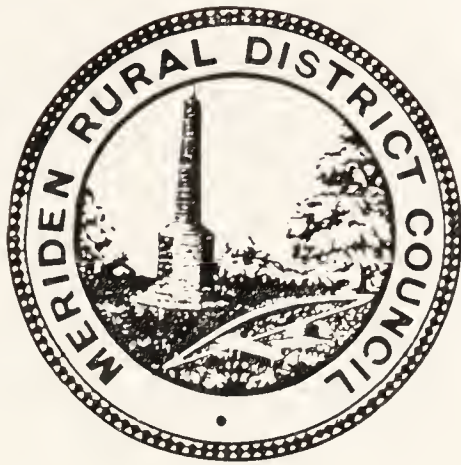
ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR

1968



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*To the Chairman and Members of the
Meriden Rural District Council*

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have much pleasure in presenting to you the Annual Report on the state of the health of the Meriden Rural District for the year 1968.

The vital statistics for the year under review indicate an increase in the population of the District, based upon the Registrar General's mid-year estimate, of 7,430 thus bringing the total to 70,360. The natural increase, due to the excess in the number of births over deaths, accounts for 702 of the total increase, the remainder being due in the main to the re-housing of families in Chelmsley Wood which is proceeding apace. A comparison with the increase of 1,610 during 1967 clearly shows the rate of growth in the population.

There has been a reversal of the previous downward trend in the birth rate, being 17.01 per 1,000 population as compared with 15.64 in the previous year. The death rate, however, has shown a continued fall from 7.36 to 7.03 per 1,000 population. It is interesting to note that in comparison with national statistics, whereas the national birth rate has fallen to 16.9 per 1,000 population, the adjusted local rate of 14.12 has risen, but still remains below the national figure. Expressed as a ratio, this is 0.83. In 1967 the standardised death rate was equal to the national figure, but in 1968 there was a fall to 10.4 after adjustment which gives a ratio of 0.87 to the national figure.

There were no outbreaks of serious communicable disease during the year and the health of the community remained at a satisfactory level. The total number of infectious diseases notified showed a rise in comparison with the previous year. As usual, the most frequent notification was for measles.

After extensive clinical trials, measles vaccine became generally available during the year and a campaign was launched to encourage parents to have their children protected against the disease. If acceptance rates for vaccination are sufficiently high, future years should see a dramatic reduction in the incidence of measles.

The requirement for certain infectious diseases to be notified ceased during the year. It had long been apparent that such notifications had served little useful purpose. At the same time, such diseases as tetanus and leptospirosis became notifiable for the first time though none was notified during the year.

The rise in the number of cases of dysentery is a matter of some concern. Two nurseries were involved in outbreaks during the year and, owing to the highly infectious nature of the disease, dissemination was rapid. In the community at large, control is rendered difficult firstly, by the wide variation in the degree of

severity so that very mild cases remain undetected and secondly, by the poor response to drug treatment so frequently encountered. For the most part the disease is comparatively mild, but the danger lies in the involvement of the very young or the very old, particularly where the patient is also in a debilitated state.

It is gratifying once again to record the progress made in the expansion of the Meals on Wheels service in 1968. Under this scheme, 12,910 meals were delivered to elderly folk who were house-bound and who found difficulty in shopping and cooking for themselves. By the end of the year approximately 300 meals per week were being delivered which represents a 50% increase on the previous year. An essential element of the scheme is the fact that each old person knows that he or she may expect a regular visit from someone who is reliable and sympathetic and who can, if necessary, call upon other services to provide further help.

Catering especially for the frail who are able to leave their houses but who nevertheless find difficulty in shopping and cooking, Luncheon Clubs were formed throughout the district as an extension of the Meals on Wheels service. Four of these were established during the year in Castle Bromwich, Coleshill, Chelmsley Wood and Old Arley. It is a pleasure once more to pay a sincere tribute to the magnificent work of the Women's Royal Voluntary Service who undertake the delivery of the Meals on Wheels and the running of the Luncheon Clubs on behalf of the Council.

Once again my thanks are due to Mr. R. Haines for his contribution to the report and to Mr. B. Ll. Stephenson for providing information relating to sewerage, sewage disposal and refuse collection.

In conclusion I would like to pay tribute to the conscientious way in which the staff of the Public Health Department have carried out their duties and to the willing co-operation extended by members of other departments.

J. E. PEARSON,
Medical Officer of Health.

Park Road,
COLESHILL.
September, 1969.

MERIDEN RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

1968

Chairman of the Council :

M. J. COSGROVE, J.P.

Vice-Chairman of the Council :

B. F. COCKERSOLE

Clerk of the Council :

RAYMOND E. HALE, F.C.C.S.

Public Health Committee: 1968-69

Antrobus, W.	Elliman, P. T.	Mold, B. A.
Cockersole, B. F.	Kelsey, H.	Rees, D. W.
Cosgrove, M. J.	Mann, C. W.	Wallace, Mrs. D. V.
Earle, R. J.	Meddings, R. W.	Wills, H. C.
Edwards, N. A.	Mitchell, P. J.	

Housing Committee: 1968-69

Allen, F. C.	Jackson, Mrs. V. L.	Martin, Mrs. L. E.
Aylesford, Earl of	Kelsey, E. J. O.	Rees, D. W.
Bradley Miller, K.	Kellie, P. F.	Sakne, E.
Cockersole, B. F.	Lowe, G. H.	Truman, Mrs. M. J.
Cosgrove, M. J.	Mann, C. W.	Wyldebore-Smith, A.R

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT STAFF
AS AT 31st DECEMBER, 1968

Medical Officer of Health :

J. E. PEARSON, M.B., B.S., L.R.C.P., M.R.C.S., D.P.H.
(Also Area Medical Officer, North Western Area, Warwickshire
County Council).

Chief Public Health Inspector :

R. HAINES, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector :

G. B. STOKES, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Additional Public Health Inspectors :

W. W. G. CUTTS, M.A.P.H.I.
R. L. TUDGE, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.
B. H. HALES, M.A.P.H.I., D.M.A.
E. FOSTER, M.A.P.H.I., D.M.A.
S. C. GOULD, M.A.P.H.I.

Chief Clerk :

J. D. MYNARD, L.M.R.S.H.

Council Offices :

Council House,
Coleshill.
Telephone : Coleshill 63141.

Office of the Medical Officer of Health:

Area Health Office,
Park Road,
Coleshill.
Telephone : Coleshill 62331-2.

SECTION A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Area in acres.....	65,774
Population (estimated Mid. 1968)	70,360
Population (Census 1951)	38,075
Population (Census 1961)	57,520
No. of inhabited dwellings (Dec. 1968)	22,100
Rateable value (at 1st April, 1968)	£2,853,053
Product of a penny rate	£12,377

VITAL STATISTICS

Births

	Live Births	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate		550	559	1109
Illegitimate		52	36	88
Totals		602	595	1197

Birth Rate

17.01 per 1,000 estimated population

1968	1967	1966	1965	1964	1963	1962	1961	1960	1959
17.01	15.64	15.98	17.66	18.65	18.58	19.37	19.60	20.20	19.08

Illegitimate Live Births. (Per cent. of total Live Births) = 7.35

Still Births

	Still Births	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate		4	10	14
Illegitimate		1	—	1
Totals		5	10	15

Still Birth Rate

12.38 per 1,000 total (live and still) births

1968	1967	1966	1965	1964	1963	1962	1961	1960	1959
12.38	13.04	9.10	17.94	18.11	18.86	20.08	16.5	14.52	16.05

Total live and Still births = 1212

Deaths

	Males	Females	Total
Deaths from all causes ..	275	220	495

Crude Death Rate

7.03 per 1,000 estimated population

1968	1967	1966	1965	1964	1963	1962	1961	1960	1959
7.03	7.36	7.65	7.34	6.81	7.41	7.06	7.11	7.33	7.03

Classified Causes of Death.

Cause of Death		Males	Females	Total
1.	Enteritis and other Diarrhoeal Diseases..	—	1	1
2.	Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	1	—	1
3.	Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases ..	2	1	3
4.	Malignant Neoplasm—Stomach.....	7	3	10
5.	Malignant Neoplasm—Lung, Bronchus	27	3	30
6.	Malignant Neoplasm—Breast	—	13	13
7.	Malignant Neoplasm—Uterus	—	4	4
8.	Leukaemia	1	—	1
9.	Other Malignant Neoplasms, etc.	31	16	47
10.	Benign and Unspecified Neoplasms	1	—	1
11.	Diabetes Mellitus	3	5	8
12.	Other Endocrine etc. Diseases	—	2	2
13.	Anaemias	—	1	1
14.	Meningitis	—	1	1
15.	Other Diseases of Nervous System, etc...	4	4	8
16.	Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease	3	1	4
17.	Hypertensive Disease	13	3	16
18.	Ischaemic Heart Disease	67	37	104
19.	Other Forms of Heart Disease	6	11	17
20.	Cerebrovascular Disease	24	36	60
21.	Other Diseases of Circulatory System....	4	12	16
22.	Influenza.....	1	—	1
23.	Pneumonia	14	24	38
24.	Bronchitis and Emphysema	14	7	21
25.	Asthma	2	3	5
26.	Other Diseases of Respiratory System ..	5	5	10
27.	Peptic Ulcer	1	6	7
28.	Appendicitis	1	—	1
29.	Intestinal Obstruction and Hernia	—	2	2
30.	Cirrhosis of Liver	1	1	2
31.	Other Diseases of Digestive System	3	2	5
32.	Other Diseases, Genito-Urinary System..	1	—	1
33.	Diseases of Musculo-Skeletal System ..	4	2	6
34.	Congenital Anomalies	6	1	7
35.	Birth Injury, Difficult Labour, etc.	4	3	7
36.	Other Causes of Perinatal Mortality ..	5	2	7
37.	Symptoms and Ill-Defined Conditions ..	—	2	2
38.	Motor Vehicle Accidents	7	1	8
39.	All Other Accidents	9	5	14
40.	Suicide and Self-Inflicted Injuries	3	—	3
TOTAL ALL CAUSES		<u>275</u>	<u>220</u>	<u>495</u>

Population and Birth and Death Ratio.

Year		Estimated Population	Total Live Births	Total Deaths	Birth and Death ratio
1958	..	52,260	1,047	385	+662
1959	..	54,590	1,042	384	+658
1960	..	56,960	1,153	418	+735
1961	..	57,750	1,132	411	+721
1962	..	60,430	1,171	427	+744
1963	..	62,430	1,160	463	+697
1964	..	64,240	1,261	446	+815
1965	..	61,890	1,093	454	+639
1966	..	61,320	980	469	+511
1967	..	62,930	984	463	+521
1968	..	70,360	1,197	495	+702

Maternal Deaths .. Nil.

Infant Deaths (under 1 year of age)

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	12	9	21
Illegitimate	2	2	4
Totals	14	11	25

Infant Mortality Rate.

21.72 per 1,000 births.

1968	1967	1966	1965	1964	1963	1962	1961	1960	1959
21.72	13.21	17.35	12.72	15.20	12.93	18.78	15.01	17.34	14.39

Infant Deaths (under 4 weeks of age).

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	9	5	14
Illegitimate	1	2	3
Totals	10	7	17

Neo-natal Death Rate 14.2 per 1,000 live births.
(first four weeks)

Legitimate Infant Deaths per 1,000 Legitimate Live Births
18.9

Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under one week per
1,000 total live births)
14.2

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	9	5	14
Illegitimate	1	2	3
Totals	10	7	17

Perinatal Mortality Rate (still births and deaths under one
week combined per 1,000 total live and still births)
26.4

Comparative Birth and Death Rates per 1,000 population.

	Meriden Rural District	England and Wales (provisional)	Ratio of Local Adjusted Rate to National Rate
Births			
Live Births ..	*14.12	16.9	0.83
Still Births	12.38 (a)	14.0	
DEATHS			
All causes	*10.4	11.9	0.87
Infant Mortality (under 1 year) ..	21.72 (b)	18.0	
Neo-natal Mortality (under 4 weeks)	14.2 (b)	12.3	
Early Neo-natal Mortality (under 1 week) ..	14.2 (b)	10.5	
Perinatal Mortality (Stillbirths and deaths under 1 week)	26.4 (a)	25.0	

* Using comparability factors (Births 0.86 and Deaths 1.52).

(a) per 1,000 total live and still births.

(b) per 1,000 live births.

Cancer.

	Male	Female	Total
Total Deaths all Forms	67	39	106

Cancer Death Rate = 1.5 per 1,000 estimated population.

Population

The mid-year estimate of the Registrar General was 70,360—an increase of 7,430 from the 1967 total of 62,930.

Births

The standardised Birth Rate of 14.12 per 1,000 estimated population was lower than the figure of 16.9 for England and Wales.

Deaths

The standardised Death Rate of 10.4 per 1,000 population was lower than that of 11.9 for England and Wales. The pattern of the chief causes of death remained largely unchanged with heart disease, cancer and vascular disease of the central nervous system predominating in the order given. Cancer in various forms caused 106 deaths. Of these, 30 were due to lung cancer—ten more than last year—affecting 27 males and 3 females.

Motor vehicle accidents were responsible for seven male and one female deaths.

National Assistance Act, 1948

Those cases during the year which were assessed for admission to chronic sick or residential accommodation were admitted appropriately on a voluntary basis, and in no instance was statutory action on my part necessary for compulsory removal under Section 47 of the Act.

SECTION B.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Total number of cases of Infectious Diseases notified during the year 1968.

Notifiable Disease	Number of Cases Notified. (Comparative figures for 1967 in parenthesis) at Ages — Years								Total cases removed to Hospital
	At all ages	Under 1	1-5	5-15	15-25	25-45	45-65	65 and up- w'ds.	
Measles	652 (549)	36	400	209	4	3	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	56 (48)	4	30	22	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria	— (—)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas*	1 (3)	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Enteric Fever	— (—)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	35 (11)	—	11	23	1	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia*	4 (1)	—	—	—	1	1	—	2	—
Malaria	— (—)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	98 (31)	11	39	24	10	12	2	—	13
Puerperal Pyrexia* ..	8 (24)	—	—	—	7	1	—	—	8
Meningococcal Infection	— (—)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis : Paralytic	— (—)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Non-paralytic	— (—)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Infective Encephalitis	— (—)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Encephalitis Lethargica	— (—)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	3 (—)	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	2 (5)	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—
Other forms of Tuberculosis	4 (2)	—	—	—	—	2	2	—	—
Food Poisoning	4 (18)	—	1	—	1	1	1	—	1
Infective Hepatitis ..	37	1	4	23	6	2	1	—	—
Totals	904 (692)	55	485	301	31	22	8	2	25

* These diseases ceased to be notified after 30th September, 1968.

Total Cases of Infectious Disease notified during previous years.

Notifiable Disease	1968	1967	1966	1965	1964	1963	1962	1961	1960	1959
Measles	652	549	588	1,077	379	1,028	93	1,980	21	344
Whooping Cough	56	48	63	31	25	40	11	49	71	72
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas*	1	3	1	2	—	4	6	2	4	2
Enteric Fever ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever....	35	11	16	28	25	15	15	36	35	54
Pneumonia*	4	1	12	13	13	16	17	35	23	63
Malaria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	98	31	72	22	106	90	158	46	48	96
Puerperal Pyrexia*	8	24	7	45	9	91	79	98	67	98
Meningococcal Infection	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	1	2
Acute Poliomye- litis : Paralytic	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Non-paralytic..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Infective Encephalitis ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Encephalitis Lethargica	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia	3	—	3	3	—	43	22	9	3	8
Neonatorum ..	3	—	3	3	—	43	22	9	3	8
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ..	2	5	12	18	12	9	19	27	19	15
Other forms of Tuberculosis ..	4	2	4	4	2	4	3	4	4	4
Food Poisoning..	4	18	3	—	—	8	9	7	17	11
Infective Hepatitis	37	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	904	692	781	1,243	571	1,349	433	2,294	313	769

* These diseases ceased to be notified after 30th September, 1968.

General Comment

In comparison with the number of cases of infectious diseases notified during the year 1967, there has been an increase in total from 692 to 904.

Measles

The bi-ennial increase in the incidence of measles observed in previous years has not continued and the number of cases reported in 1966, 1967 and 1968 are of the same order.

In May, measles vaccination commenced and the following table gives details of the numbers of children, according to age groups, who received vaccination during the year.

Table showing number of children Immunised against Measles in 1968.

Age	Vaccinations
0-1	277
2-5	860
6-15	356
Total	1,493

Whooping Cough

The number of cases reported increased from 48 to 56.

The following table gives details of the number of children who have received protection against whooping cough. Since combined antigens are used almost exclusively, they will also have received protection against diphtheria and tetanus.

Table showing number of children Immunised against Whooping Cough in 1968.

	Age at Date of Injection					Total
	Under 1	1-2	3-4	5-9	10-14	
Primary	261	672	35	8	—	984
Reinforcing	—	457	67	62	7	593
Totals	261	1,129	102	70	7	1,577

Diphtheria

For the nineteenth successive year no cases of diphtheria have been notified. This reflects both the efficacy of the vaccine and its acceptance by parents.

Table showing number of children Immunised against Diphtheria during 1968.

(Comparative figures for 1967 are given in parentheses)

	Age at date of injection					
	Under 1	1-2	3-4	5-9	10-14	Total
Primary	298 (333)	681 (602)	44 (80)	100 (82)	73 (34)	1,196 (1,131)
Re-inforcing	— (—)	476 (443)	144 (198)	1,057 (952)	780 (463)	2,457 (2,056)
Totals	298 (333)	1,157 (1,045)	188 (278)	1,157 (1,034)	853 (497)	3,653 (3,187)

Smallpox

Table showing number of Persons vaccinated against Smallpox in 1968

(Comparative figures for 1967 are given in parentheses)

	Under 1	1	2-4	5-14	15 or over	Totals
Vaccinated	9 (6)	327 (268)	402 (374)	79 (45)	— (—)	817 (693)
Re-Vaccinated ..	— (—)	— (—)	10 (6)	37 (38)	9 (4)	56 (48)
Totals	9 (6)	327 (268)	412 (380)	116 (83)	9 (4)	873 (741)

Scarlet Fever

The incidence of 35 cases increased from 24 compared with 1967, the majority in the 1-15 year age group and all of a mild nature.

Pneumonia

There were 4 cases of pneumonia notified, two of which were in patients over 65 years of age. From the 1st October notification of this disease was no longer required.

Dysentery

98 cases of dysentery were notified in comparison with 31 in the preceding year. There were outbreaks in St. Theresa's Nursery, Coleshill and in the Manor Nursery, Keresley. Fortunately none of the children was seriously affected. The remaining cases reported were distributed sporadically throughout the District.

Puerperal Pyrexia

There was a decrease from 24 to 8 in the number of reported cases, all of which were from Marston Green Maternity Hospital. This disease ceased to be notified from October onwards.

Acute Poliomyelitis

For the eleventh successive year no cases came to light and the following table summarises the vaccination campaign.

Poliomyelitis Vaccinations completed during 1968

Oral	Primary	Booster	Totals
0—1	895	—	895
2—5	202	710	912
6—15	179	721	900
Total	1,276	1,431	2,707

Infective Hepatitis

This disease became notifiable during the year and 37 cases were reported.

Tuberculosis

During the year 2 new cases of pulmonary and 4 of the non-pulmonary type were reported compared with 5 and 2 cases respectively in 1967. Inward transfers of cases already notified elsewhere totalled 24, and these for the most part were arrested or quiescent and non-infectious but, of course, still subject to regular supervision.

Total number of Tuberculous persons remaining on Register at 31st December, 1968

	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F
1. Total on register at 31st December, 1967	186	118	17	24
2. New Cases	—	2	3	1
3. Inward Transfers	11	10	1	2
4. Removals	4	1	—	—
5. Total on register at 31st December, 1968	193	129	21	27

Age and Sex Distribution of New Cases and Deaths Notified during 1968

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0—1 ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5 ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—15 ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—25 ..	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—35 ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35—45 ..	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
45—55 ..	—	1	3	—	—	—	—	—
55—65 ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and upwards ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals ..	—	2	3	1	—	—	—	—

Milk supplies in the District are submitted by the County Health Department for testing, and the results of their investigations are given below:

Tuberculous Milk Investigations—Routine Milk Samples for Biological Examination during the year 1968

Designation of Milk	Total No. of Samples.	No. Positive
Tuberculin Tested	11	Nil

SEWERAGE

The extension to the sewer in Meeting House Lane, Berkswell was completed during the year.

A Ministry of Housing and Local Government Engineering Inspector held a local investigation into the proposed Whitacre Heath sewerage scheme, but the Minstry considered that these proposals should be deferred because of the continued restrictions on capital expenditure, and the fact that the Upper Tame Main Drainage Authority were installing a temporary disposal plant with a probable life of five years. It was, however, suggested that the Council, in consultation with the Main Drainage Authority, might look into the

possible alternative of providing a separate sewage disposal works to serve the area.

The public conveniences provided on both carriageways of the A.45 trunk road at Stonebridge, built in 1967, continued to be in frequent use with an average of 403 pennies per day, or about 147,000 in the year, being fed into the coin locks to the closet compartments.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

The various collection services have operated satisfactorily during the year.

Difficulties are being experienced in obtaining suitable sites for controlled tipping of household refuse and arrangements were made with private tip operators with a view to using tips operated by them.

Further progress was made with the replacement of pail closets and since 1960 417 closets have been replaced and a further 80 have been approved.

Report of the Chief Public Health Inspector

GENERAL INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT

Inspections and visits made :

Public Health Acts

Nuisances	1,237
Sewers and drains	314
Ditches and water courses	146
Filthy and verminous premises	10
Infestations	105
Infectious diseases	314
Water supplies	117
Moveable dwellings (other than caravans) ..	3

Noise Abatement Act

Noise nuisances	85
-----------------------	----

Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act

Caravans and caravan sites	583
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Housing Act

Houses recorded	20
Other visits	1,744
Overcrowding	8

Food and Drugs Act

Food premises (including registered premises)	716
Food stalls and vehicles	88
Bakehouses	17
Slaughterhouses (premises)	60
Food complaints (investigations)	40
Food examination (including meat inspection)	1,369

Clean Air Act

Survey visits (smoke control areas)	1,082
Other inspections and visits	2,653

Factories Act

Factories:	
Non-power	—
Power	61
Others	4

Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act

Offices and shops—recorded inspections ..	50
Re-inspections	169
Other visits	33

Rent Act	2
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Prevention of Damage by Pests Act

(excluding visits by rodent operator)	126
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National Assistance Act, section 50	2
Animal Boarding Establishments Act	13
Miscellaneous	232

11,403

Complaints investigated	1,349
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Nuisances

Nuisances of various kinds reported and dealt with totalled 352. Further difficulty was experienced with the "Homefire" plant of the National Coal Board at Keresley, which continued to create nuisances from time to time. Excessive noise, emissions of smoke and fumes and wind-borne dust, gave rise to strong complaints from local residents. The process is registered under the Alkali Works Act but understandably the residents look to the District Council for help in dealing with their complaints. The Chairman of the National Coal Board personally received a deputation of residents at the works during May 1968 and assured them of the Board's intention to continue doing everything possible to prevent the occurrence of nuisances. Remedial measures since taken have not, however, eliminated the nuisances although there has been some improvement. The plant was still not fully operational by the end of the year.

Some of the complaints at Keresley related to air-borne grit and investigations revealed deficiencies in the grit-arresting apparatus at Coventry Colliery, which still uses a range of Lancashire boilers for steam-raising. Representations to the management resulted in remedial works being carried out and the emission of grit was materially reduced.

The Lurgi gasification plant of the West Midlands Gas Board at Coleshill, which in the earlier stages had emitted very objectionable smells, gave little cause for complaint in this respect during the year.

The unsatisfactory condition of a piggery at Burton Green was the subject of complaints. A nuisance abatement notice served on the occupier, requiring remedial works, was not complied with and a complaint was made to the justices in December. A nuisance order was granted with £10 10s. 0d. costs.

Enforcement

Verbal warnings	153
Informal notices	283
Statutory notices	52
Legal proceedings	1

HOUSING

Register of Applications for Council Houses

Number of applications on register at end of year :		
General needs		276
Slum clearance		
General	17	
Old people	6	23
Agricultural		14
Old people (other than slum clearance)		90
		<hr/>
		403
		<hr/>

Comparative total at end of 1967.....	413
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Number of dwellings available for letting during year:

New houses		48
Casual vacancies	59	
less transfers to new houses	6	53
		<hr/>
		101
		<hr/>

Allocations

General needs	43
General needs (old people)	37
Slum clearance.....	2
Slum clearance (old people)	7
Agriculture	4
Other priorities, including Council staff	8
	<hr/>
	101
	<hr/>

The number of new houses completed during the year was slightly below average. Casual vacancies occurred at about the normal rate. Exchanges between tenants, including exchanges with tenants of private landlords and other authorities, totalled 24 compared with 59 the previous year. The reduction does not indicate a change of policy.

SLUM CLEARANCE

Clearance Areas

Number of orders made	—
Number of houses affected	—
Number of orders confirmed	—
Number of houses demolished	8

Single houses

Number of demolition orders made	17
Number of houses demolished	14
Number of undertakings accepted	—
Number of closing orders made	—

Houses made fit—

by owners, voluntarily	13
by owners, after formal notices	12
by Council, in default of owners	—

Overcrowding

The position at the end of the year was as follows:

Number of private houses known to be overcrowded	4
Number of Council houses known to be overcrowded	3
Number of families involved	7
Number of persons involved	70
Cases relieved during year by Council	1
Cases relieved during year otherwise	1
Houses in multiple occupation	2

Rent Act, 1957

Applications received during year	1
Certificates of disrepair issued.....	—

WATER SUPPLIES

Extent of supplies

Each parish in the rural district is provided with piped supplies by one or other of four statutory water undertakings, as shown in the table on page 26. The percentage of houses which do not have water mains available is now 0.63, compared with 1.01 in 1967. There was no complaint of shortage, and adequate supplies were maintained.

Extension of water mains

Only limited progress was made during the year. Of three small schemes approved during 1967, two had still not been carried out by the end of 1968. They are at Cornets End, Berkswell and Chapel Green, Fillongley. The third scheme, at Brickhill Lane, Allesley, was completed at an estimated cost of £740, to supply two houses.

A scheme to provide new supplies to eight properties and to improve existing supplies at four others, at Breach Oak Lane and Fillongley Lane, Astley, was carried out by the North East Warwickshire Water Board. It did not involve the Council in a guarantee agreement.

Quality of supplies

The following table gives the result of bacteriological examination of water samples taken during the year.

<i>Nature of Source</i>	<i>Results</i>	
	<i>Satisfactory</i>	<i>Unsatisfactory</i>
Old wells	2	7
Springs	—	2
Mains	40	—
Totals	42	9

There is no problem of plumbo-solvency.

Supplies from the public mains have been generally satisfactory in quality, as confirmed by the samples taken by the public health inspectors and by the results of other routine sampling by the water undertakers.

The extent to which piped water supplies are available is shown by the table which follows. The supplies generally are by direct connections to the houses, and not by standpipes.

Parish	Number of dwellings	Dwellings without mains water available	Dwellings having water mains available			
			Birmingham Water Department	Coventry Water Department	N.E.W'shire Water Board	S. Staffs Waterworks Co.
Allesley ..	251	3	—	248	—	—
Arley ..	970	1	—	—	969	—
Astley ..	69	5	—	—	64	—
Balsall ..	1,267	6	—	1,261	—	—
Barston ..	166	7	—	159	—	—
Berkswell ..	800	6	—	794	—	—
Bickenhill ..	1,178	3	1,175	—	—	—
Castle Bromwich ..	2,905	—	2,905	—	—	—
Coleshill ..	2,771	4	2,767	—	—	—
Corley ..	255	—	—	255	—	—
Curdworth ..	190	—	190	—	—	—
Fillongley ..	557	73	480	—	4	—
Hampton-in-Arden ..	481	1	—	480	—	—
Keresley ..	235	—	—	235	—	—
Kingshurst ..	5,277	—	5,277	—	—	—
Lea Marston ..	96	1	95	—	—	—
Maxstoke ..	81	1	80	—	—	—
Meriden ..	779	12	—	767	—	—
Middleton ..	233	—	—	—	—	233
Packington ..	65	5	55	5	—	—
Shustoke ..	196	—	196	—	—	—
Water Orton ..	1,228	—	1,228	—	—	—
Nether Whitacre ..	287	1	286	—	—	—
Over Whitacre ..	110	—	110	—	—	—
Wishaw and Moxhull ..	65	—	—	—	—	65
Totals	20,512	129	14,844	4,204	1,037	298

SUPERVISION OF FOOD PRODUCTION AND HANDLING

Eight slaughterhouses were re-licensed, but one, at Water Orton, ceased to be used. In April, a new occupier began using the premises for cutting up, sorting and preparing butchers' waste, for disposal to firms manufacturing animal foods. The establishment of such a business was strongly resisted but the Council's wishes were defied. Consideration of the Council's powers led to the matter being dealt with under planning law. A subsequent application for consent for the new use of the premises was refused, and following an appeal, a public local inquiry was held in December. The result is awaited and meanwhile the unauthorised use continues, the raw material for the business being collected mainly from other areas.

The other seven slaughterhouses were satisfactorily maintained.

Thirty-four licences to slaughter animals were issued.

Inspection of all food animals killed in slaughterhouses has been continued. The following table shows the inspections and condemnations in summary form.

Meat Inspection

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number inspected	3,142	384	96	28,115	8,726
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci</i>					
Whole carcasses condemned	3	1	5	108	7
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned	546	102	6	6,701	2,792
Percentage of the num- ber inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysti- cerci	17.4	26.8	11.5	24.2	32.1
<i>Tuberculosis only</i>					
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned	—	10	—	—	25
Percentage of the num- ber inspected affected with tuberculosis	—	2.6	—	—	0.3

Meat Inspection, etc.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
<i>Cysticercosis</i>					
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned	3	1	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigera- tion	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned.....	—	—	—	—	—

**Food Condemnations
Meat**

		Tuberculosis tons. cwts. lbs.		All other diseases and conditions tons. cwts. lbs.	
Cattle (excluding cows)					
	Carcase meat			18	15
	Offals			2	7
Cows	Carcase meat	6	25		9
	Offals		58		9
Sheep	Carcase meat			2	0
	Offals			5	15
Pigs	Carcase meat	2	69		15
	Offals			1	5
Calves	Carcase meat				1
	Offals				50
					4
Totals		9	40	14	3
					8

Poultry Inspection

There has been no significant change in the position previously reported. The production of table poultry is still mainly limited to casual processing at farm premises for direct retail sale, and in the absence of a legal requirement to notify slaughter, effective inspection is impracticable. The one small establishment where regular slaughtering was done in 1967 has continued to operate but on a reduced scale, the proprietor doing his own rejection of unfit birds and notifying only doubtful cases for inspection. Conditions generally give no cause for concern.

Inspection of other food

A total weight of 1 ton, 12 cwts. 22 lbs. of miscellaneous food was condemned and voluntarily surrendered for destruction.

Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960

A classified list of premises in the district to which the Regulations apply is given over.

Category	Number inspected and recorded	Number complying with Regulation 16*	Number to which Regulation 19† applies	Number complying with Regulation 19
Grocery	78	76	78	78
Grocery and General (not exclusively food) ..	47	42	47	47
Bread and cakes	8	8	8	8
Sweets and confectionery ..	44	43	44	44
Greengrocery	45	44	45	45
Butchery	38	37	38	38
Fish, wet and/or fried ..	14	14	14	14
Restaurants, Cafes, etc. ..	35	34	35	35
Hotels and Licensed Premises	92	90	92	92
Ice-cream (incidental to trades other than food)	6	6	6	6
Industrial Catering ..	35	35	35	35
Bakehouses	5	5	5	5
School Kitchens	35	35	35	35
	482	465	482	482

* Regulation 16 requires the provision of wash-hand basins for the use of food personnel.

† Regulation 19 requires the provision of sinks for washing food and equipment where open food is handled.

Visits to food premises of all kinds totalled 921, including 60 inspections of slaughterhouse premises but not including visits to slaughterhouses for purposes of meat inspection. The following is a summary of defects and contraventions recorded.

Defects of premises and lack of proper maintenance	180
Defective or inadequate equipment	84
Unhygienic practices	171
Contraventions involving food vehicles	26
	<hr/> 461 <hr/>

All the contraventions were dealt with informally. Twenty complaints were investigated relating to unsound food or foreign matter in food.

Registered food premises

Premises registered under section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955:

Manufacture and sale of ice-cream	4
Sale only of ice-cream	162
Manufacture of sausage and/or cooked meat	22
Fish frying.....	14

Ice-cream sampling

Samples taken during the year and submitted for bacteriological examination gave the following results.

						Grade			
						I	II	III	IV
Soft ice-cream	..	..	..	..	..	4	—	—	—
Other ice-cream	..	..	..	..	..	3	—	2	—

(Grades I and II are regarded as satisfactory)

Milk and Dairies

Registered distributors of milk:

Retail dairymen having premises in the district	25
Shopkeepers selling bottled milk	51
	<hr/> 76 <hr/>

CLEAN AIR ACT, 1956

Smoke Control Programme

Progress with the Council's programme was maintained. No. 3 Order, in respect of the Timberley Ward of Castle Bromwich was made in January 1968 and confirmed in October, there having been no objection. It will come into operation on the 1st October, 1969, and applies to 838 houses (all privately owned) and 87 other premises of various kinds. The area involved is 96.47 acres. All the administrative steps in carrying out the programme have proceeded smoothly and the control is very largely supported by public opinion. A considerable amount of voluntary conversion to the use of smokeless forms of heating is taking place in advance of smoke control orders, thereby reducing the burden on public funds.

A minor complication arose in the application of the No. 2 order to local authority-owned houses at Kingshurst, estimates of conversion costs having been prepared on the understanding that only minimal works would be required and that they would be done at landlord's expense. A number of tenants subsequently applied to be allowed to carry out more extensive works, for which they asked for the full grant. A revised estimate of cost had then to be made and approved by the Ministry, but there will be certain savings in other directions and the total cost to the Council and Exchequer may not materially exceed the original estimate.

The Bedworth Urban District Council, having proposed a smoke control order in respect of a housing estate at Keresley, asked the Council to make a similar order to cover a further 80 or so contiguous properties in the rural district. This seemed hardly the best place in which to introduce an early addition to the Council's smoke control programme. The houses are all quite near to the "Homefire" plant of the National Coal Board, a gross and persistent polluter of the air which had already caused annoyance to many local residents. However, Bedworth were understood to be under some pressure, in consequence of their designation as a "black" area for smoke control purposes, and the Council therefore agreed in principle. For administrative as well as financial reasons, it may not be practicable to make the order before 1970.

Reference was made in the 1967 report to difficulties which had been experienced at Marston Green with smoke emissions from boiler plant belonging to the Regional Hospital Board, within the area affected by the Council's No. 1 Smoke Control Order. Improvements already made to the plant had not then achieved the desired reduction of smoke emission. The problem was pursued during 1968 and other improvements made, the results being much more satisfactory.

Measurement of Air Pollution

The total insoluble deposited matter measured from the Lea Marston gauge averaged 10.29 tons per square mile per month. The comparative figures for 1967, 1966 and 1965 were 10.10, 12.15 and 10.44. Sulphur gases showed a slight downward trend with figures of 1.45, 1.32, 1.33, and 1.29 for the years 1965 to 1968. These are empirical units evaluated by the lead dioxide process, and are the averages of results obtained from eight instruments around the Hams Hall electricity generating stations.

CARAVAN DWELLINGS

Licensed caravan sites

The number of licensed sites at the end of the year was 20, permitting a total of 208 caravans. The largest site, at Eaves Green, Meriden, is still the least satisfactory. A proposal to transfer all the caravans from this site to an alternative site where main drainage could be provided was rejected, and an appeal against the planning decision was dismissed following a local inquiry. The owners had undertaken to comply fully with the licensing requirements as soon as the appeal had been decided. Under further pressure, they eventually placed an order for the necessary works, which, however, had not been started by the end of the year. The requisite additional amenities, including better drainage and toilet facilities, will involve the provision of substantially increased cesspool capacity, there being little prospect of main sewerage in the locality in the foreseeable future.

Legal proceedings were taken in eight cases in respect of the unlicensed use of land as sites for occupied caravans, with the following results:

Case No.	1.	Fined	£10	0s.	0d.	plus	£10	10s.	0d.	costs
„	2.	„	£10	0s.	0d.	„	£3	3s.	0d.	„
„	3.	„	£7	0s.	0d.	„	£3	3s.	0d.	„
„	4.	„	£7	0s.	0d.	„	£3	3s.	0d.	„
„	5.	„	£10	0s.	0d.	„	£5	5s.	0d.	„
„	6.	„	£12	0s.	0d.	„	£3	3s.	0d.	„
„	7.	„	£10	0s.	0d.	„	£5	5s.	0d.	„
„	8.	„	£15	0s.	0d.	„	£6	6s.	0d.	„

In several other reported cases there were mitigating circumstances and warnings were given.

The problem of tinker encampments on roadside verges did not recur, and the Council were not prepared to take the initiative in promoting the establishment of caravan sites for people in this group.

PEST CONTROL AND MISCELLANEOUS SERVICES

The Council's one rodent officer is now more than fully employed. There has been no significant increase in the incidence of rats in the district, but because of additional duties and a general expansion of activity over a period of years, there is now no time for routine investigations. Attention to complaints cannot always be given promptly and it is no longer practicable to pay routine attention to possible sewer infestations. The employment of an extra rodent operator becomes increasingly necessary.

Following complaints which were found to be justified, a notice under section 4 of the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949, was served on the occupier of a piggery in the parish of Berks-well requiring him to take certain specified steps to keep the land free from rats. Because of his continued default, proceedings against him were taken in the Magistrates' court and a fine of £5 was imposed.

Number of visits by rodent operator	1,653
Premises found to be infested with rats and/or mice and subsequently treated:—	
Domestic	415
Industrial and commercial	124
Sewage works treated	8
Drains examined	172
Disinfestations, etc.....	182
Collection and disposal of condemned food (visits):	
Meat	205
Other food	3

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

The total number of registered premises increased by 8 since the last report. The position at the end of the year is given in the following table:

Class of premises	Premises Registered during year	Total registered premises at end of year	General Inspections during year
Offices	9	93	32
Retail shops	21	240	78
Wholesale shops, warehouses	3	12	4
Catering establishments open to the public, canteens	5	63	38
Fuel storage depots	—	4	1
Totals	38	412	153

Number of visits of all kinds to registered premises, including general inspections 252

Number of contraventions discovered and dealt with 182

Analysis by workplace of persons employed in registered premises:

Class of Workplace	Number of persons employed
Offices	613
Retail shops	994
Wholesale departments, warehouses	114
Catering establishments open to the public	893
Canteens	16
Fuel storage depots	16
Total	2,646
Total Males	1,160
Total Females	1,486

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

Inspections

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspec- tions (3)	Written notices (4)	Occupiers prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sec- tions 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	15	—	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	154	61	21	—
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (ex- cluding outworkers' premises)	7	4	—	—
Total ..	176	65	21	—

Defects found

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ..	13	13	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	3	2	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	1	1	—	—	—
Sanitary conveniences (S.7) :—					
(a) Insufficient ..	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective ..	20	17	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ..	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences ..	—	—	—	—	—
Total ..	37	33	—	—	—

Outworkers

Nature of Work (1)	Section 133			Section 134		
	No. of outworkers in August list required by Section 133(1) (c) (2)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council (3)	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists (4)	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises (5)	Notices served (6)	Prosecutions (7)
Wearing apparel making etc.	2	—	—	—	—	—
Electro-plate	1	—	—	—	—	—
Total ..	3	—	—	—	—	—

